GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2577
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2016
Digital Gender Atlas
Maadam Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Digital Gender Atlas" related to education in the country has been launched by the Government and if so, the details of the achievements, State/UT-wise;
(b) the details of the feedback on the use of "Digital Gender Atlas" received from different agencies and partners; and
(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for bridging gender gaps in education sector in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): The 'Digital Gender Atlas' for Advancing Girls' Education in India was launched on the occasion of International Women's Day on 08.03.2015.
The Gender Atlas helps to identify and ensure equitable education with a focus on vulnerable girls, including girls with disabilities. The Gender Atlas has been acknowledged as a hands- on management tool to enable critical decisions and actions in pockets where gaps are to be met. It uses geographical representation and numeric data at state, district and block levels and gives information on key indicators for girls' education at primary, upper primary and secondary level for three years.
(c): The Government has initiated the following schemes for bridging gender gaps in the education sector in the country.
To encourage the participation of all girls at elementary level, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides for the opening of schools in the neighbourhood to make access easier for girls, the appointment of additional teachers including women teachers, free textbooks, free uniforms, separate toilets for girls, teachers' sensitization programmes to promote girls participation, gender-sensitive teaching learning materials including textbooks and the scheme of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas as residential upper primary schools for girls belonging to SC/ST/Minority Communities, BPL families and girls in difficult circumstances.
Under the Rashtriya Madyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) interventions to promote girls participation in secondary schools include the opening of new schools, the strengthening of existing schools, the appointment of teachers including female teachers, the construction of residential quarters for teachers in remote/hilly areas, hostel facilities for girls' curriculum reforms to eliminate any hidden gender bias, conduct of self defence training for the girls, special programmes for empowerment of girls, stipend for girls with disabilities, vocationalization of secondary education, Girls Hostel scheme, teacher sensitization programmes and separate toilet blocks for girls. Girls are exempt from paying tuition fee in Kendriya Vidyalayas, and there is 33% reservation for girls in Navodaya Vidyalayas.
The "National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education" provides a ? 3,000/- deposit in the name of eligible unmarried girls below 16 years as fixed deposit, to be withdrawn along with interest, upon the girl reaching 18 years of age and after passing class 10.
The 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme is a joint initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development. The scheme has been initiated with the objectives of preventing gender biased sex selection elimination, ensuring survival and protection of the girl child and ensuring her education.
'Udaan' is an initiative of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to promote educational opportunities for girl students. It has been designed to provide a comprehensive platform for deserving girls students who aspire to pursue higher education in engineering, and assist them to prepare for the IIT JEE while studying in classes XI & XII.
The 'Saakshar Bharat' programme is being implemented in the country with the objective of imparting functional literacy and numeracy to non-literate and non-numerate adults and covers 397 districts of the country. Under 'Saakshar Bharat' a district that has adult female literacy of 50% or below as per 2001, is eligible for coverage.
In order to enhance women's enrolment in higher education, the Central Government has launched several schemes under the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA). These

include up-gradation of one existing autonomous college to Women's University, conversion of 5 Women Colleges to cluster University, support to two Women's Universities and 121 Womens Colleges under Infrastructure Grants to Universities/Colleges, one new Model Degree College for Women, up-gradation of 3 Women Degree Colleges to Model Colleges and support to 23 Women Colleges under Vocationalisation of Higher Education.

The schemes being run by the University Grants Commission (UGC) for promotion of girls in higher education include day care centres in universities and colleges, Development of Women's Studies in University and Colleges, Construction of women's hostels, Capacity building of women managers in Higher Education, Indira Gandhi Post Graduate scheme of single girl child and Post-Doctoral Fellowships for Women.

The Indira Gandhi National Open University has 38 special study centres and 7 regular study centres catering specially to women learners.

'PRAGATI' is a scheme of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and it envisages the selection of one girl per family where family income is less than ? 6 lakhs per annum, on merit at the qualifying examination to pursue technical education. The scholarship amount is ? 30,000/- or the tuition fees or the actuals, whichever is less, and ? 2,000/- per month for 10 months as contingency allowance.